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## NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

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### GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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12 April 2021

<b>SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR</b> Cherie O'Brien, TPWD	<b>SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR</b> Philip Smith, GBF
<b>NRU COORDINATOR</b> Lindsey Lippert, GBEP	

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#### **Members/Participants Present**

Scott Alford (USDA-NRCS), Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Sarah Bernhardt (BPA), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Bryan Eastham (TPWD), Richard Gibbons (Houston Audubon), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Claire Iseton (TPWD), Erin Kinney (HARC), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Haille Leija (GBF), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Chris Marshall (TAMUG), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Cherie O'Brien (TPWD), Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Stephanie Powers (NOAA), Kacy Ray (ABC), Derek Sanford (ABNC), Linda Shead (various), Matt Singer (GBF), Christian Rines (GBEP), Chris Smith (ABNC), Philip Smith (GBF), Charrish Stevens (NOAA-NMFS), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Tara Whittle (GLO), Lauren Williams (TNC), Scott Williams (USFWS), Heather Young (RESTORE Council)

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#### **Introductions and Housekeeping**

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Lindsey Lippert deferred formal introductions due to the amount of people attending, gave instructions for audio and video, and presented a brief synopsis of the agenda. Lindsey also gave call-in information for members with computer issues.

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#### **Impacts from Winter Storm Uri**

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Several members of the subcommittee or partner agencies gave formal presentations on affected biota from elements of the prolonged freeze caused by Winter Storm Uri. These included:

- Anna Armitage (TAMUG) - Mangroves
- Richard Gibbons (Houston Audubon) - Birds
- Claire Iseton (TPWD) - Finfish
- Chris Marshall (TAMUG) - Sea Turtles
- Chris Smith (ABNC) - Vegetation

The [Microsoft Stream](#) of these presentations, as well as the full meeting is available upon request. Lindsey asked the presenters if there were any needs that the NRU subcommittee could potentially help with, ahead of the next funding cycle.

Lindsey also opened this discussion to the subcommittee. Amanda Hackney pointed out that while the presentations covered many living resources, there wasn't any information on reptiles and amphibians; specifically, Uri impacts and how they will recover. As there is no one with that specific expertise on the subcommittee, a few

names were suggested to reach out (Greg Hall-Artist Boat, Dr. Michelle Johnson). Claire Iseton has noted an increase in calls on Mexican Freetail Bats between events like Winter Storm Uri and Hurricane Harvey (potentially to reach out to Diana Foss, TPWD). There has also been an increase in calls about grey squirrels, fox squirrels, and rabbits, and posed whether the salmonella outbreak associated with birds/bird feeders is also affecting small mammals. Claire also provided information on the TPWD State Wildlife Grants, and that the application period would be open until April 15, 2021.

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## **Updates from the Estuary Program**

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### **NRU Project Updates**

\*Spreadsheet available on request.

### **Staff Updates**

Lisa Marshall Announced that the Galveston Bay Council Meeting will be held virtually on April 21, 2021.

Cynthia gave an update on the Public Assessment completed in partnership with the Houston Advanced Research Center. The final report is being reviewed and the results will be shared with the Galveston Bay Council and subcommittees soon.

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## **Other**

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### **June NRU Meeting: Priority Selection for FY 2023 Project Planning**

**Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - N/A**

### **Announcements**

Amanda Hackney and partners recently had a meeting for the Partners in Litter Prevention and the annual Trash Summit will be virtually held May 7, 2021.

Sarah Bernhardt announced some position openings at the Bayou Preservation Association, and that she will be leaving her position to move out of state and BPA will be hiring a replacement.

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## **Adjourn**

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### **Future Meetings**

Quarterly NRU Meeting - June 2021

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - TBD

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - TBD